

our health care delivery system. And just as these providers travelled to meet with us, over 100 Members of Congress have toured a local pharmacy over the past 5 years.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their health care needs. The local pharmacist is a trusted, highly accessible health care provider deeply committed to providing accurate prescriptions, catching possible drug interactions and helping patients take medications as prescribed.

As demand for health care services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in health care delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other health care providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient health care. Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life and health care affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care later. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as understanding their pharmacy benefits, using generic drugs and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies. The importance of medication adherence and the effectiveness of local pharmacists in delivering patient care is resonating with policymakers.

Pharmacists are the Nation's most accessible healthcare providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to health care. Eighty-six percent of rural Americans reside within a 10-mile radius of a sole community pharmacy. Usually these pharmacists are substantially closer than their physicians. Pharmacists are one of the most trusted professionals. Pharmacy has a long history of receiving, filling, billing and dispensing prescriptions in tandem with patient counseling. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists also play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, health care screenings, and other health care services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall health care costs.

As the face of neighborhood health care, pharmacies across the Nation offer these and other cost saving programs and services to patients. For more than a century, pharmacies and pharmacists have made a difference in the lives of Montanans and all Americans through these important patient care services, and it is critical we work to support their unique contributions.

As we refine health care reform and seek new strategies to improve health and reduce costs, pharmacists will play

a critical role. They help patients adhere to their medications and that improves health outcomes and reduces the risks of adverse events and unnecessary costly hospital readmissions and emergency room visits. Pharmacists as providers with a comprehensive understanding of a patient's medical needs, are uniquely qualified to work with patients to help manage all of their medications and play an essential role in helping them take their medications as prescribed. Unfortunately, only one half of Americans living with chronic diseases adhere to their drug regimens. This patient non-adherence costs the Nation's economy an estimated \$290 billion each year, not to mention the avoidable loss of quality of life for patients and their loved ones. Congress recognized the important role of local pharmacists when it included a Medication Therapy Management, MTM, benefit in Medicare Part D. As we have seen the increasing value of this benefit in improving patient health outcomes, I support community pharmacy's efforts to strengthen the MTM benefit so it is available for seniors and others struggling with chronic conditions and other illnesses.

Today, I celebrate the value of pharmacy and support efforts to protect access to neighborhood pharmacies and utilize pharmacies to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care. In recognition of the fifth annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, and executives and the pharmacy community represented by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA

• Mr. VITTER. Madam President, today I recognize the City of Thibodaux. This month, Thibodaux, LA, celebrates its 175th anniversary. First named Thibodauxville to honor Henry Schuyler Thibodaux, the city was both a trading post between New Orleans and Bayou Teche in the late 1700s and also a popular settling place for Acadians, Africans, Italians, and Spaniards coming to Louisiana during that time. However, it wasn't until 1838 that Thibodaux became the official name. In fact, city resident and Louisiana Governor E.D. White, Sr., commissioned the name change.

Thibodaux is also where the Battle of Georgia Landing was fought during the Civil War, and the Battle of Lafourche Crossing happened a few miles east. Affectionately known as the Queen City of Bayou Lafourche, Thibodaux's history can be seen in places such as the Laurel Valley Village, home of the oldest working sugar cane plantation in the United States, and the home of Governor E.D. White. Both are listed

on the National Register of Historic Places.

Along with Governor White, Governor Francis T. Nicholls also was a native of Thibodaux, and Nicholls State University is named in his honor. Governor White's son, E.D. White, Jr., served as U.S. Senator from 1891 to 1894. Later, he was an associate justice and chief justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1894 until his passing in 1921. A statue of Chief Justice White stands in our U.S. Capitol commemorating his service to Louisiana and the Nation. These are just a few of the historically significant residents of Thibodaux.

The City of Thibodaux, its people, and Cajun heritage are at the heart of the culture and traditions that have made Louisiana great. Louisiana and the City of Thibodaux's history are represented through our culture, our traditions, and especially our food. They all symbolize who we are and the devotion we have to preserving our heritage.

Thibodaux's motto is "Where Yesterday Welcomes Tomorrow," and it is my honor to celebrate the City of Thibodaux's 175th anniversary while looking forward to its bright future.●

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12957 ON MARCH 15, 1995—PM 5

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2013.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue

the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to deal with this threat.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2013.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-774. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Amendments to the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014" (RIN0938-AR74) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-775. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Extension of the Payment Adjustment for Low-volume Hospitals and the Medicare-dependent Hospital (MDH) Program Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) for Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2013" (RIN0938-AR12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-776. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014" (RIN0938-AR51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-777. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2012 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-778. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification regarding the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) requirements of the Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-779. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Health Insurance Market Rules; Rate Review" (RIN0938-AR40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-780. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Health Insurance Market Rules; Rate Review" (RIN0938-AR40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 25, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-781. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and

Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Standards Related to Essential Health Benefits, Actuarial Value, and Accreditation" (RIN0938-AR03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-782. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-783. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additional Safeguards for Children in Clinical Investigations of Food and Drug Administration-Regulated Products" ((RIN0910-AG71) (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-784. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Filings Required of Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements and Certain Other Related Entities" (RIN1210-AB51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-785. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ex Parte Cease and Desist and Summary Seizure Orders—Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements" (RIN1210-AB48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-786. A communication from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Learning from Iraq"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-787. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Data Mining Activities by the Department of State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-788. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to compliance by the United States courts of appeals and district courts with the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-789. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Standards of Identity for Distilled Spirits" (RIN1513-AB33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-790. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of

Justice's Office of Justice Programs Annual Report to Congress for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-791. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Amendment 17 to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-BC28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-792. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XC493) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-793. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XC465) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-794. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XC466) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-795. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Increase" (RIN0648-XC474) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 146. A bill to enhance the safety of America's schools.

S. 374. A bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. ISAKSON):